

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image stripping apparatus comprising:
an image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material;
an image stripping means for stripping the image forming material from an image recording medium by making the image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium; and
a removing means for removing, from said image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording ~~medium~~ medium; and
an applying means for applying a releasing material on a surface of the image stripping member.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) An image stripping apparatus according to ~~claim 2~~, further claim 1, further comprising:
a second applying means for applying a releasing material on a surface of the image recording medium before the image stripping member contacts the image recording medium.
4. (Original) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a reducing means for reducing adhesiveness between the image recording medium and the image forming material.

5. (Previously Presented) An image stripping material according to claim 4, wherein said reducing means for reducing adhesiveness is a heating means for heating the image recording medium.

6. (Original) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a material forming a surface layer of the image recording medium has releasability with respect to the image recording material.

7. (Currently Amended) An image stripping method utilizing an image stripping apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a releasing material on a surface of the image stripping member;
stripping an image forming material from an image recording medium by making an image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium, the image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material; and

removing, from the image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium.

8. (Original) An image stripping method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

reducing adhesiveness between the image recording medium and the image forming material, before the image stripping member contacts the image forming material on the image recording medium.

9. (Original) An image stripping method according to claim 8, wherein in said step of reducing adhesiveness, the image forming material on the image recording medium is heated.

10. (New) An image stripping apparatus comprising:
 - an image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material;
 - an image stripping means for stripping the image forming material from an image recording medium by making the image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium; and
 - a removing means for removing, from said image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium,wherein the surface layer comprises a releasing material and an affinitive material.
11. (New) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the releasing material is contained in the surface layer in a content ratio of 5 to 80% by weight.
12. (New) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the releasing material comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of a fluorine compound, wax and a silicon compound.
13. (New) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the affinitive material comprises a thermoplastic resin.
14. (New) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the affinitive material comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of a styrene-based resin, a vinyl-based resin, an olefin-based resin, an epoxy resin, a polyester resin, a polyurethane resin, a polyamide resin, a polyether resin, a polyacetal resin, a polycarbonate resin, and a cellulose resin.

15. (New) An image stripping method utilizing an image stripping apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a releasing material on a surface of the image stripping member;
stripping an image forming material from an image recording medium by making an image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium, the image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material; and

removing, from the image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium, wherein the surface layer comprises a releasing material and an affinitive material.

16. (New) An image stripping method according to claim 15, wherein the releasing material is contained in the surface layer in a content ratio of 5 to 80% by weight.

17. (New) An image stripping method according to claim 15, wherein the releasing material comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of a fluorine compound, wax and a silicon compound.

18. (New) An image stripping method according to claim 15, wherein the affinitive material comprises a thermoplastic resin.

19. (New) An image stripping method according to claim 15, wherein the affinitive material comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of a styrene-based resin, a vinyl-based resin, an olefin-based resin, an epoxy resin, a polyester resin, a polyurethane resin, a polyamide resin, a polyether resin, a polyacetal resin, a polycarbonate resin, and a cellulose resin.